

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00735 071303Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 ACDA-12 /080 W
-----004395 071305Z /46

O R 071240Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6327
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBSSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0735

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GY, BH
SUBJECT: PREMIER PRICE VISIT GUYANA

1. PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM'S OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT
PREMIER GEORGE PRICE OF BELIZE WILL ARRIVE THE EVENING OF
MARCH 7 FOR A FOUR DAY VISIT TO GUYANA. HE IS VISITING AT THE
INVITATION OF BURNHAM.

2. NO DETAILS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD
HAS BEEN RELEASED BUT ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE TALKS
WILL CENTER ON THE ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE.

3. SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK, GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER,
RASHLEIGH JACKSON, AGAIN PLEDGED GUYANA'S "UNSTINTED" SUPPORT
FOR BELIZIAN INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT TERRITORIAL CESSION. HE
ASSERTED THAT GUYANA WOULD NOT "COUNTENANCE ANY STEP WHICH
WOULD DIMINISH THE INTEGRITY OF THIS COMMUNITY (BELIZE) AND
ITS TERRITORY.

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4. COMMENT: DUE TO GUYANA'S HISTORY OF HAVING A SECES-
SIONIST MOVEMENT IN THE BERBICE REGION, VENEZUELA'S
CLAIM TO TWO-FIFTHS OF GUYANA'S TERRITORY, AND SURINAM'S
CLAIM TO THE NEW RIVER TRIANGLE AREA OF SOUTHEAST GUYANA,
GOG LEADERS ARE EXTREMELY NERVOUS ABOUT ANY TERRITORIAL
SETTLEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE HEMISPHERE, IN WHICH A
SMALL STATE IS FORCED TO CEDE TERRITORY TO A LARGER ONE.

THEY ARE AWARE THAT VENEZUELA'S MILITARY POWER WOULD
ENABLE IT TO ASSERT ITS CLAIM BY FORCE. THEREFORE, THE
GUYANESE HAVE SOUGHT LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION
(E.G. NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY). FOR THIS REASON THEY ARE
EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT ANY SETTLEMENTS WHICH WOULD
APPEAR TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT AND THUS WEAKEN THE
LEGAL, POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT THEY BELIEVE GUYANA
HAS ACQUIRED.
BLACKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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